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U.S. Serial No.: 09/919,204

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 11, and 15-20 are amended herein. No new matter is added by these amendments. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's assistance in evaluating the instant patent application in the interview conducted on or about July 31, 2007, in which no agreement was reached.

Claims 1-6, 9-12, and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,670,917 to Sheridan. Claims 7, 8, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sheridan in view of official notice. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The present invention as recited in independent claim 1 is directed to an information distribution device to which a plurality of terminal devices and a content server are connected via a network *using an IP protocol*. In amended claim 1, a first storage portion stores terminal information including *an IP address* of each terminal device belonging to said group, and a first receiving portion receives, from one terminal device belonging to said group, *a distribution request including a Uniform Resource Locator as access information* and distribution destination information. In amended claim 1, said access information is required for accessing the distribution information stored in the content server, and *said distribution destination information specifying IP addresses of other terminal devices* than the one terminal device which belong to said group and to which the distribution information is to be distributed.

Applicants submit that the claims as previously presented are distinguishable from Sheridan in that Sheridan requires a user to actively access the information provided on the hub station in Sheridan. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, and for the purpose of

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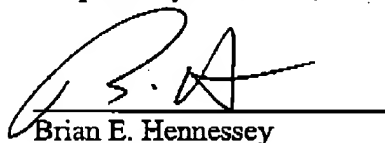
clarifying the claimed subject matter, Applicants amend the claims to recite that the network uses an IP protocol, the terminal information includes an IP address, the distribution request includes a Uniform Resource Locator as access information and distribution information, and the distribution destination information specifies IP addresses of other terminal devices. It is respectfully submitted that Sheridan does not disclose or suggest such a device, and for at least this reason the claims are allowable.

Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 1 as currently amended is patentably distinguish over the relied upon portions of Sheridan and is allowable. Claims 11 and 15-20 recite similar features and are amended in a similar fashion to claim 1, and accordingly it is submitted that these claims are also allowable. Claims 2-10 and 12-14 depend from claims 1 and 11 respectively and are allowable therewith.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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